

OIL NEWS

IN AND AROUND ARDMORE

GROSS PRODUCTION TAX ON OIL AND GAS SHOWS BIG INCREASE

Oklahoma City, June 6.—The state's share, two-thirds, of the 3 percent gross production tax on oil and gas for the first five months of 1919 amounts to \$926,612.64, about \$234,000 in excess of the same period of 1918. Collections for May are in the neighborhood of \$25,000 in excess of the amount collected in the same month last year.

Bruce Ott, deputy auditor in charge of the gross production tax department, has prepared a report showing the state's income from gross production tax during the years 1916, 1917, 1918 and 1919 to date. The tax is credited as follows: Two-thirds to the general revenue fund of the state and one-third to the counties in which the tax originated. The counties' shares would be one-half of the amount credited to the state general fund. The following figures are taken from the report:

1916—January, \$51,917.18; February, \$126,845.30; March, \$476,471.52; April, \$69,253.92; May, \$291,324.14; total, \$925,812.06.

1917—January, \$13,566.91; February, \$39,585.45; March, \$499,794.66; April, \$32,831.77; May, \$64,215.11; June, \$378,229.24; July, \$88,243.61; August, \$103,869.49; September, \$527,544.62; October, \$41,412.13; November, \$133,925.59; December, \$558,672.66; total, \$2,525,742.28.

1918—January, \$32,563.66; February, \$159,171.81; March, \$166,009; April, \$50,009; May, \$272,724.44; June, \$100,000; July (no figures); August, \$500,000; September, \$1,092,385; October, \$18,174.16; November, \$474,876.99; December, \$110,538.87; total, \$1,900,142.92.

1919—(No figures for January, February, March, May and July; April, \$62,396.56; June, \$130,000; August, \$240,000; September, \$190,986.71; October, \$155,955.73; November, \$253,174; December, \$151,738.54; total, \$1,058,591.63.

Total for the years 1916, 1917, 1918 and five months of 1919, \$6,390,687.99.

Total collections of oil and gas production tax for the years named are as follows:

1916, tax \$2,002,490.88, penalty, \$3,502.45; 1917, tax \$1,396,502.10; 1918, tax \$458,310.71, penalty \$7,826.51; 1919 (four months), tax \$1,314,181.79, penalty \$4,267.38.

HOLD CONFERENCE MONDAY ON METHOD OF GAS INSPECTION

Oklahoma City, June 6.—Judging from advices being received by the state corporation commission there will be a large attendance of oil and gasoline producers at next Monday's conference to discuss the proposed rules covering the inspection of gasoline and other petroleum by-products. House bill No. 235, passed by the seventh legislature, under the provisions of which the inspection of gasoline will be carried out, included the emergency section and was effective immediately after approval and not on July 1, as has been announced in some localities.

The organization of the inspection force, however, has been a matter requiring considerable time and the commission decided to permit the producers to present their views and discuss the commission's proposed rules and regulations. Therefore the meeting to be held Monday was called and producers and handlers of gasoline and other petroleum by-products have been invited to meet with the commissioners and it is believed that this meeting will result in bringing the matter before the public in such a manner that there will be no misunderstanding in the operation of the law.

The force of inspectors to be named by the commission has been presented to the governor. Some of these he has found less desirable than several whose names have been proposed to him. The list now in the hands of the commissioners comprises the joint selection of the executive department and the corporation commission.

A rather unusual condition was brought about when the names of several members of both houses were proposed. The constitution prohibits the holding of two offices at the same time, but the fact that the oil inspectors will work on a fee basis is believed to be a condition which will permit legislators to fill those positions if their selection is deemed advisable.

The corporation commission received notice recently that W. A. Schaefer of Tulsa, representing the C. J. Tagliabue

VILLA'S NATURE IS EXPOSED WHEN OLD FRIEND IS KILLED

Juarez, Mexico, June 7.—When old Jose de la Luz Herrera and his two sons trudged out to the Parral cemetery before the Villa firing squad in the dawn of Easter morning, a Mexican feud more bloody than any of the Kentucky mountains came to a climax.

Francisco Madero's call to the mountain men of Chihuahua in the fall of 1910 brought Villa from his brigand rendezvous in the Sierra Madres, Crozes from the San Andres llanos and the Herrera brothers from the copper mines of Parral. Together they fought the revolution of 1910-11 and together they marched into Mexico City in the triumphal entry. "Pancho," Maclovio and Luis all wore the tri-color of the revolutionary army.

When Madero was killed and the constitutional revolution started, the Herreras and Villa again took up arms against the Huerta federalists. But the inevitable break between Carranza, the educated and Villa, the bandit, occurred. All of Villa's old friends and followers remained with him but the Herreras moved to Juarez and became mayor there. Villa led his hosts to defeat against Obregon, fighting under Carranza's banner. To his Golden Ones Villa swore an oath he would exterminate the entire Herrera family. Later Maclovio was killed by a concealed machine gun as he crossed the border to join Carranza's forces. The report said it was a case of mistaken identity.

Christmas week, 1917, Villa sprung a surprise attack on Torreon, commercial capital of the rich, Laguna district. Luis Herrera was the Carranza commander. He was captured, tortured and mutilated, then hanged to a

cross. The story of the friendship between Villa and the Herrera family, the deaf, and Luis, the lame, joined Carranza as generals of the line. Old Jose de la Luz Joseph of the Lights the father went back to Parral and became mayor. Melchor moved to Juarez and became mayor there. Villa led his hosts to defeat against Obregon, fighting under Carranza's banner. To his Golden Ones Villa swore an oath he would exterminate the entire Herrera family. Later Maclovio was killed by a concealed machine gun as he crossed the border to join Carranza's forces. The report said it was a case of mistaken identity.

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telegraph pole with a picture of Carranza suspended from the body.

Two years elapsed and Villa rode into Parral at the head of his troops on Easter morning, 1919. The Defensa Sociales or Home Guards has surrendered. Jose de la Luz Herrera, Melchor Herrera and Zefeliano Herrera were commanders in this organization. Villa disarmed and pardoned all but the three Herreras. The other officers interceded for them.

"No! This is a personal matter," Villa said.

Old man Herrera advanced, saluted and offered his hand. Villa refused it. Realizing his fate was sealed the head of the Herrera house denounced Villa as "the greatest traitor and worst enemy Mexico had ever known."

"Take them out to the Camprosanto," Villa ordered, and to the dead march of the drums they were led out and executed on Easter morning. All died bravely, without eye bandages and facing the firing squad squarely. This done Villa announced that his oath had been fulfilled, his grudge satisfied and that the younger Herrera boy would be spared.

All the Herreras were famous in Mexico. It was Maclovio who charged and captured a machine gun at the battle of Torreon in 1914 when a general of division under Villa. Luis Herrera was one of the first of Madero's commanders to be wounded. Herrera, the father, was credited with saving Major Frank Tompkins from annihilation at the hands of a mob at Parral during the Villa chase. Melchor,

as mayor of Juarez, was always friendly to the Americans and saved many Americans from death before the firing squad. The mother of the Herreras is dead and only the boy survives Villa's hatred and then only by grace of Villa's pardon.

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